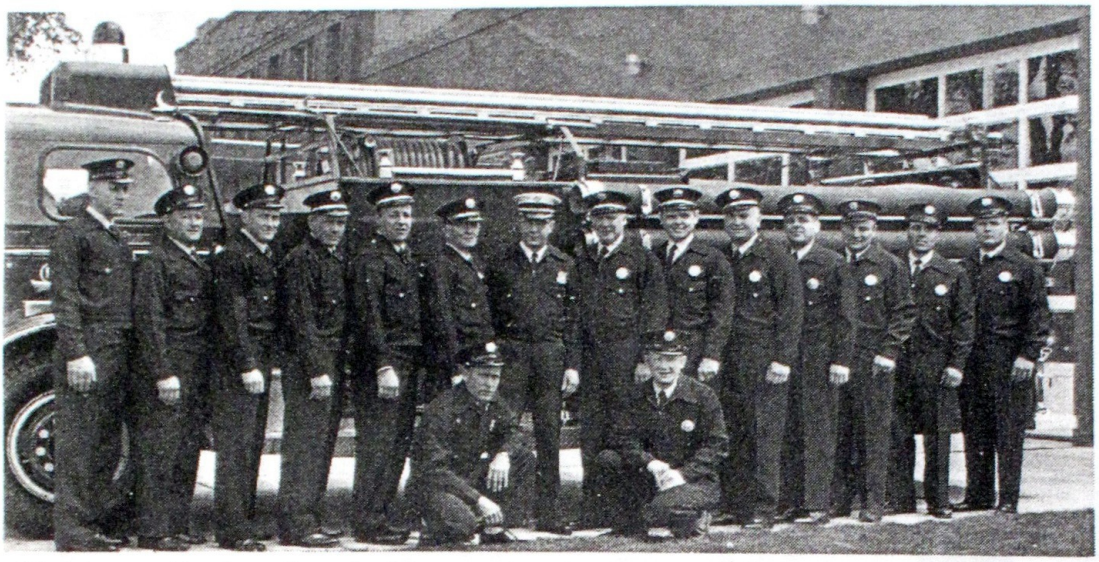
This is part two of Center Line Fire Department History by Patrick R. O'Lear son of Joe O'Lear who was a fireman when I was a volunteer fireman.

Fire Department - 1961



When that screeching siren calls our fire-fighters to action, these are the men who will respond at any time of day or night. Standing in front of a most capable piece of equipment we find also capable regulars and volunteers flanking Chief Lyerla (white cap) left to right: Norman Desimone, John Radtke, James Mainero, Sgt. Richard Carney, Sgt. William Desmone, Lieut. Nelson Bruechaert, Chief Lyerla, Lieut. Ralph Reiterman, Sgt. Norman Smith, Sgt. Vincent Grobbel, Joseph O'Lear, Robert Widman, Gustino Sciotti, Guy Swanson; kneeling: Harold Helberg and Anthony Meduvsky.

Fire Department - 1931

"It was a beauty back in 1926 when we bought it." Recalled former police and Fire Chief George Theut. Not only that, but the only fire engine to serve the south end of Warren Township, including Center Line". He continued.

Chief Theut and some of the fire fighting volunteers of Center Line are shown as they appeared in 1931.

Left to right seated: Leo Grobbel, Nelson Zott, Dave Smith, Chief George Theut, Jacob Schneider, Mark Kunath, Harold Stilwell, Leo Schnoblen.

Standing, left to right: Joe Wiegand, Norbert Rinke, Tony Vohs, Edward Grobbel, Edw. Schoenherr, Jr., George Rinke, Paul Elwart, Nelson Giff and Bert Grobbel.

Proudly seated at the wheel, Elmer Flechsig with Clement Grobbel.

Source: Wesley E. Arnold Collection

High summer. Harold Godin's Millers Beer Store van passes a Dodge left safely parked on the kerb-side grass with the windows down. This was a period when everyone knew each other, and front doors were left unlocked. Former Helen Street resident Ken Samp recalls that his mom Sophie could leave a note for the delivery man to just go inside and put their milk in the ice-box if she was going to be out shopping.

Wesley E. Arnold Collection

Wesley E. Arnold Collection

As JULY 4 CONTINUES the bicycle girl on Page 3 has left the stormtroopers of the American Eagles and is hitching a more melodic ride with the cowboy band on a farm wagon. As always it's the band that gets the girls. But who could resist a squeeze box and a black ten gallon hat? Public liability insurance seems hardly an issue here, with a very young driver at the wheel of the cut-down truck. He can barely see over the hood.

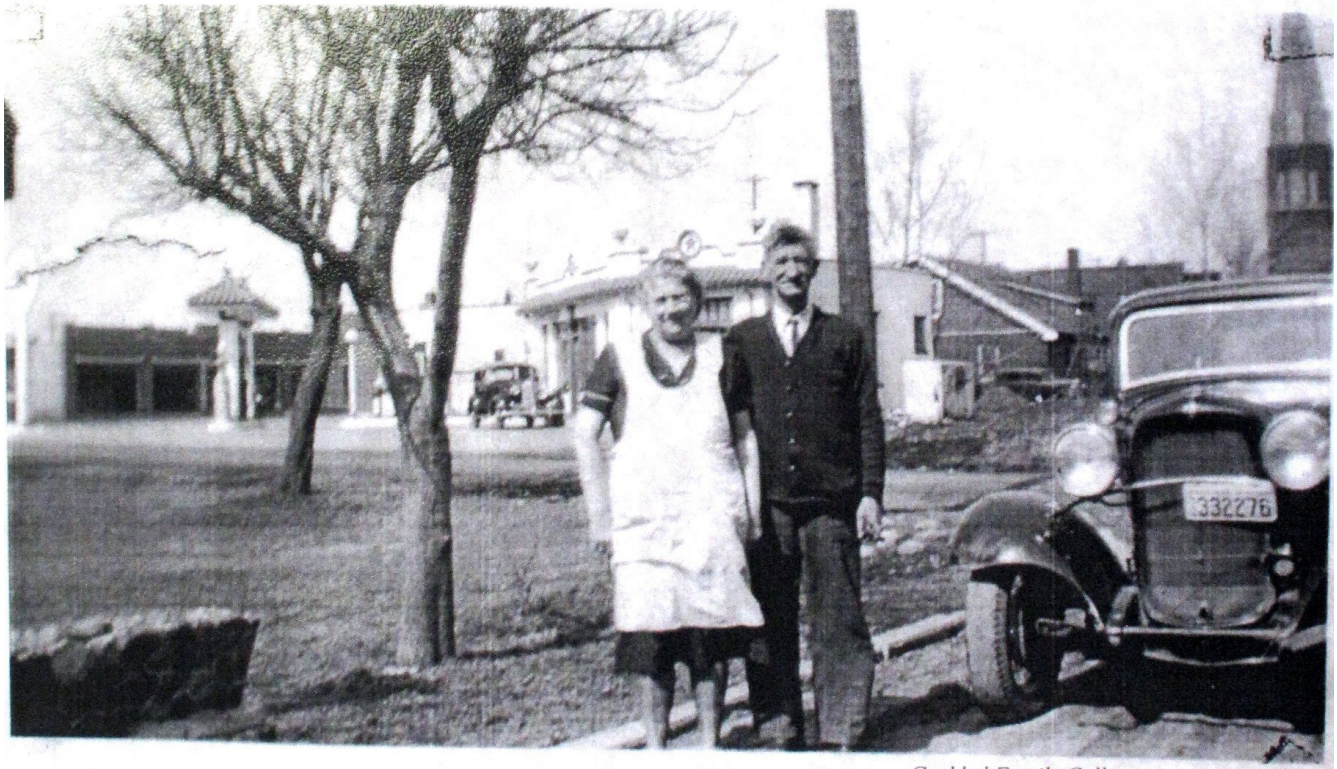
'MA' ZOTT reigned supreme at 'Ma' Zott's Recreation at 25325 Van Dyke, which offered a 10-lane bowling alley, a bar and grill with home-cooked meals through the 1930s and 1940s, expanding at one point into an adjoining building previously occupied by William Sperlich's funeral parlor. It was the place where the pin-boy Vince Grobbel (page 2) earned his first dollar. As she looked, 'Ma' (her real name was Anna) had a heart as big as a pancake, and was a superb cook. She and her husband Joseph had moved to Center Line from a farm on 12 Mile and Hoover in 1928 with their three children. She is seen here with her younger son Milton 'Dutch' Zott about to open for business.

Wesley E. Arnold Collection

This page and opposite: Permissions acquired by M.V. Grobbel. The photographer is unknown.

IT'S 1945. Victory is in the air. At the end of the year a trickle of the men will start coming home. On Van Dyke, Center Line's Boy Scouts - The Flying Eagle Patrol of Macomb County's Troop 8 - march for the flag, which has just been landed on the beaches of Okinawa. The lady on the far right, by the Texaco sign, is Mrs Jerry Schoenherr, whom we will meet with her husband down the block a moment later (opposite). Meantime, two boys on the right column are having a debate, while cars go around or pull over.

MOM AND POP. Everyone had them, and everyone had a few of these: black box camera snapshots, crinkled from being moved around old family albums whose holders always gave way at the corners. This one has been cello-taped back in, the gummy residue of a saw-toothed dispenser leaving its tell-tale marks. Lou and Mary Kaltz paused from their working day to stand up for the camera on Ritter Avenue in the late Thirties. She's busy, and he'll be glad to get back to his stogy - maybe has places to go in the crank-up car with bald tires.



Grobbel Family Collection

tr. Donald DeMink, Cyril F. Overbeke, Jos. Ritchie, Sgt. Chas. Miller, Robt. Woods, Comm. Dennis Frazier, Le
Meredith, Lieut. E. G. Flechsig, Sgt. Earl Parrish, Lee Yozzo, Wm. Wilson.

Source, this page and opposite: CLPD / Wesley E. Arnold Collection

FEDORA at a jaunty angle, cigarette in hand, businessman Jerry Schoenherr and his equally smart wife have reason to look optimistic leaving an Easter Mass at St Clement's. It is Sunday April 1, 1945. US troops have landed on Okinawa that day, and the firebombing of Tokyo has begun. The Andrews Sisters' *Rum and Coca Cola* is topping the charts, while Bing Crosby has won an Oscar for his starring role in *Going My Way*, and Ingrid Bergman for her role in *Gaslight.* US and Allied troops have crossed the Rhine, and Eisenhower declares German resistance broken. Hitler has ordered the scorched earth policy. Hitler features in this picture too. See the next page ...

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New a Sensational NEW SOAP
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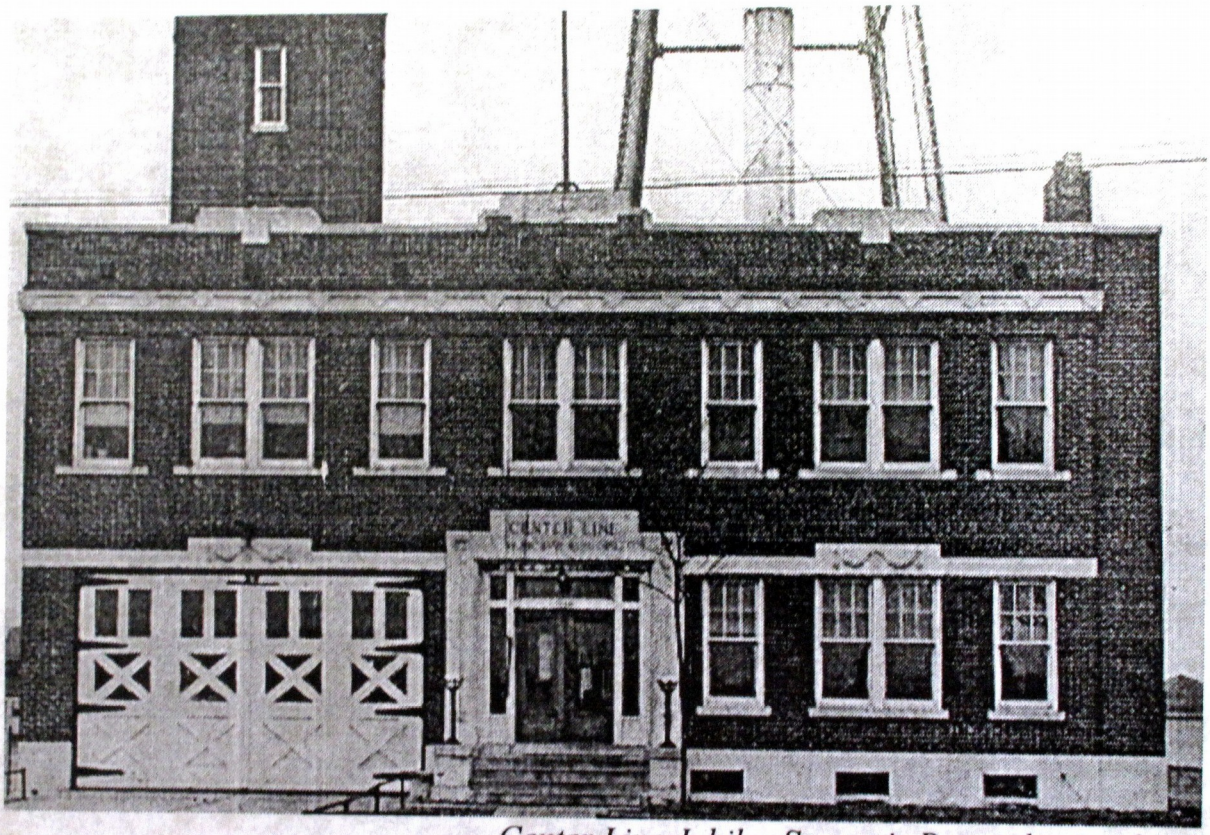
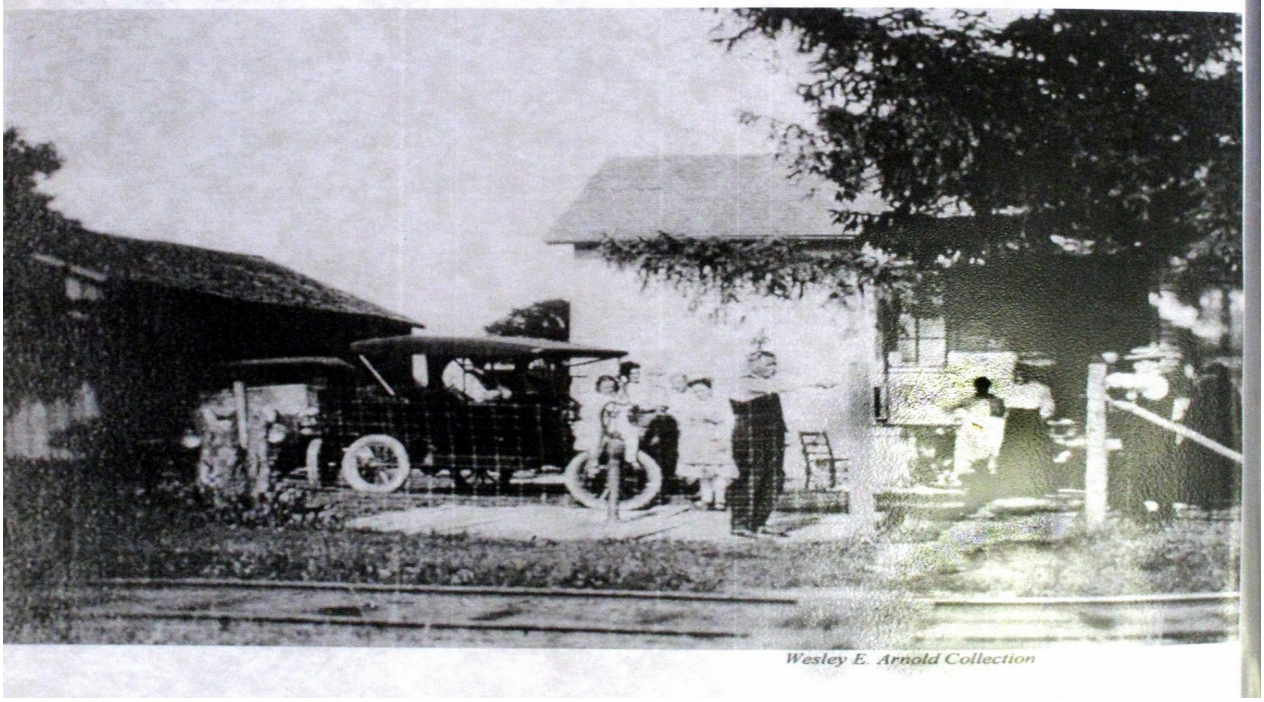
for brighter dishes
New PERK do all your work



Center Line Jubilee Souvenir Remembrance book

THE TROLLEY TRACKS went right by the front door of the Cramer homestead here at 10 Mile. But, perhaps anticipating the times, the Cramers have embraced Henry Ford, if not yet the era of the double garage. The water pump in front no doubt keeps the radiators topped up.



Wesley E. Arnold Collection

EITHER one man with three secretaries or a crowded office. In any event, in 1958 Center Line city manager Paul VanDenBranden is well served. Two ladies have electronic calculators, and at least the sole black rota-dial telephone has a chin rest. With a fan, air-conditioner and column heater, they're ready for all weathers. The ladies are conservatively dressed, but Paul favors two-tone shoes.

Wesley E. Arnold Collection

BERT HAZEN (right) Mayor from 1954 to 1960, chats with Public Safety Commissioner Dennis Frazier in 1957. Frazier appeared on page 12. A photo of a nasty-looking car wreck is pinned to the wall. Alelbert Hazen and Harold Stillwell wrote Centerline's Jubilee book of 1961. Sadly Hazen and his wife Leona lost their son Paul in action in Vietnam in 1966, the city's first loss in a distant, confusing war. Other Center Line sons to die in Vietnam were Daniel Francis Cahill (Feb. 1969), Gerald Eugene Butler (Dec. 1969) and Vaun Arlen Gaube (Oct. 1970).

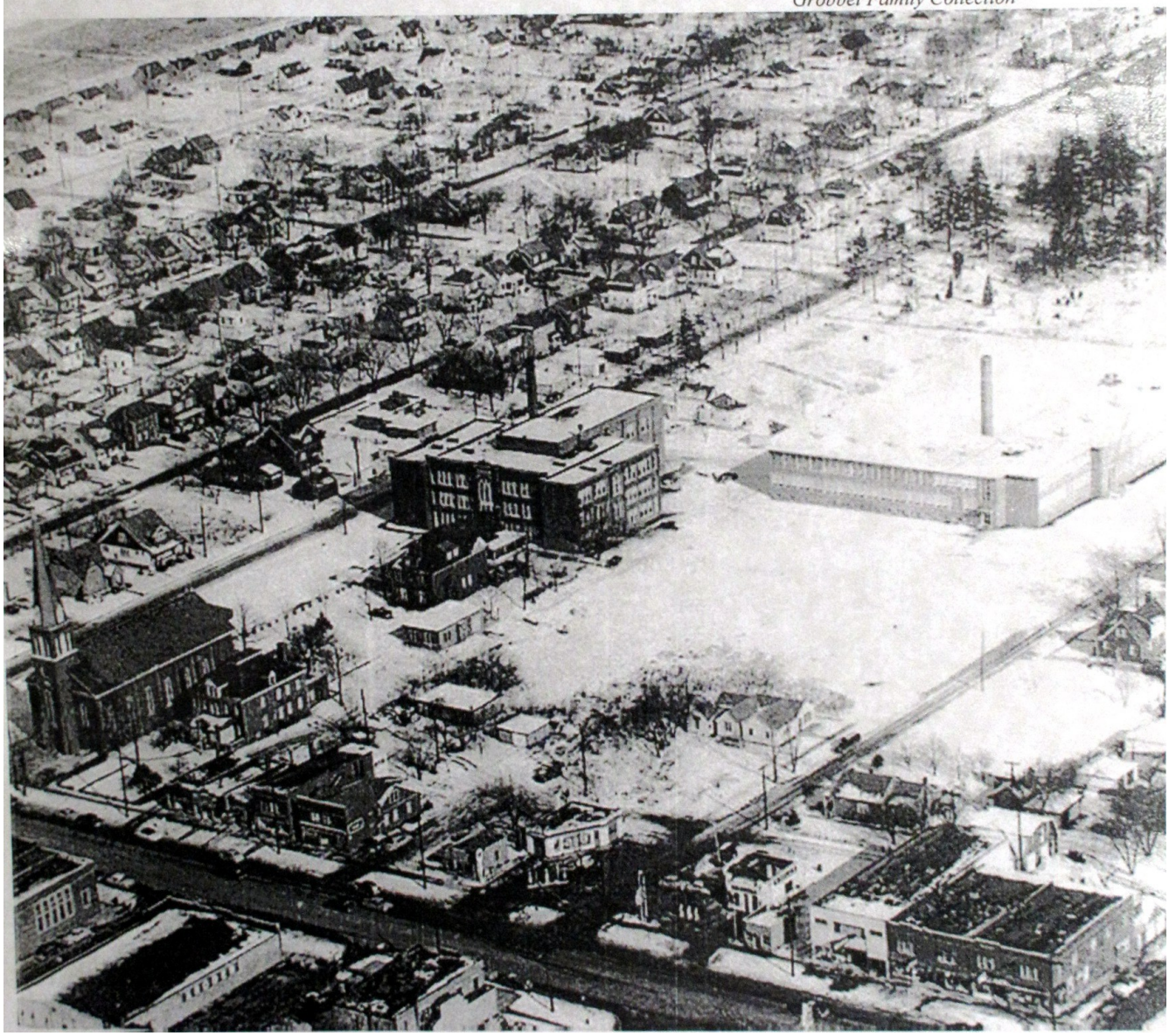
Wesley E. Arnold Collection

THE PUMPER arrived too late to save the Grobell's farmhouse at 11 Mile, shown here in the mid-1880s. Westphalia immigrant Anton Grobbel's property had passed to his son Anthony and his wife Mary. They were building a new home on Dale Avenue on May 16, 1926 (see page 25) when they heard the town fire sirens and saw smoke in the distance. A refrigerator on the back porch had shorted, and soon the flames consumed everything except the barn. The property was lost to creditors during the Depression, and eventually became part of the Detroit Arsenal site. Anthony is shown here on the right, his parents Elizabeth and Anton Grobbel on the step, and a brother Ben holds the horse. The child is unidentified.

Photo courtesy Clark Heath

AMERICAN GOTHIC. The second St Clement's accommodated 500 worshippers and was considered too big when built in 1880. It lasted until 1962, when a soaring modern church with 1600 pews rose. This winter 1954 aerial shows the church, priests and Dominican sisters' house - school and cemetery at the rear. Center Line has become closely settled. The new church site would consume the shop fronts and Texaco garage in the lower corner, and urban renewal take all those opposite.

Grobbel Family Collection

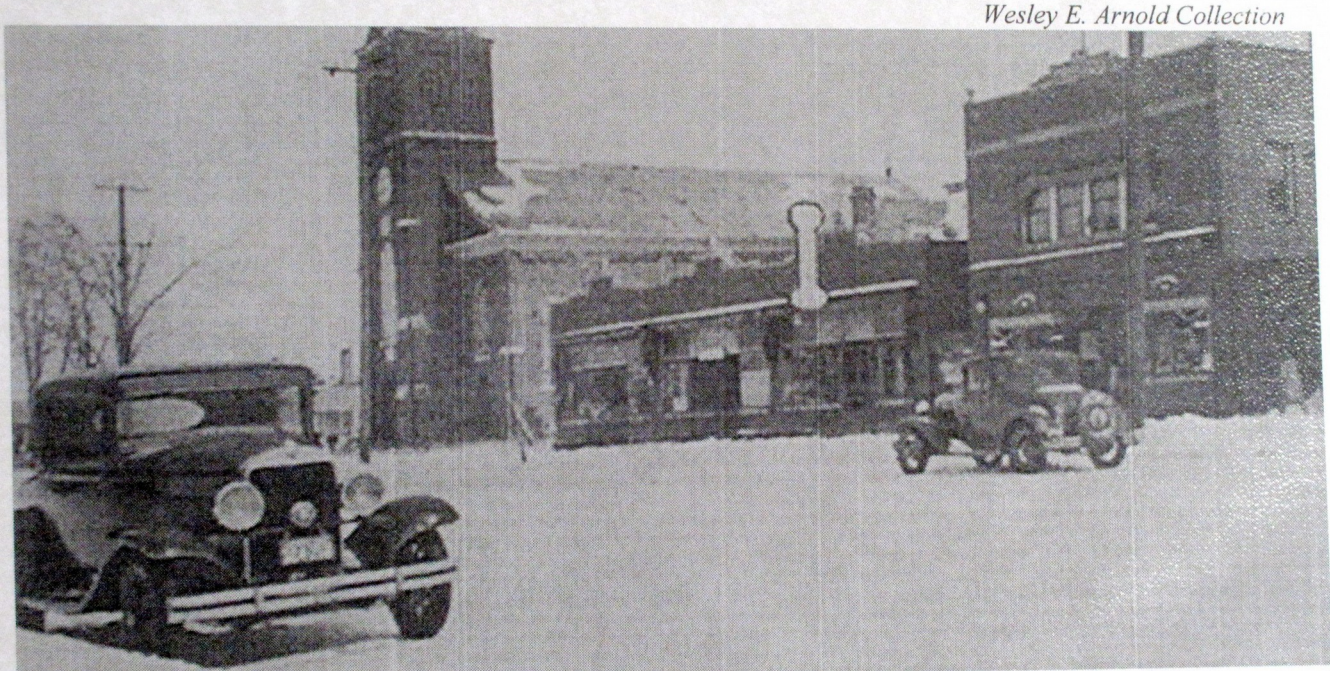


THE SISTERS' HOUSE. This 1914 postcard shows shades drawn against the summer sun. The fruits trees bloom, and – just visible – one of the occupants enjoys the shade on a bench set in the garden.

Grobbel Family Collection

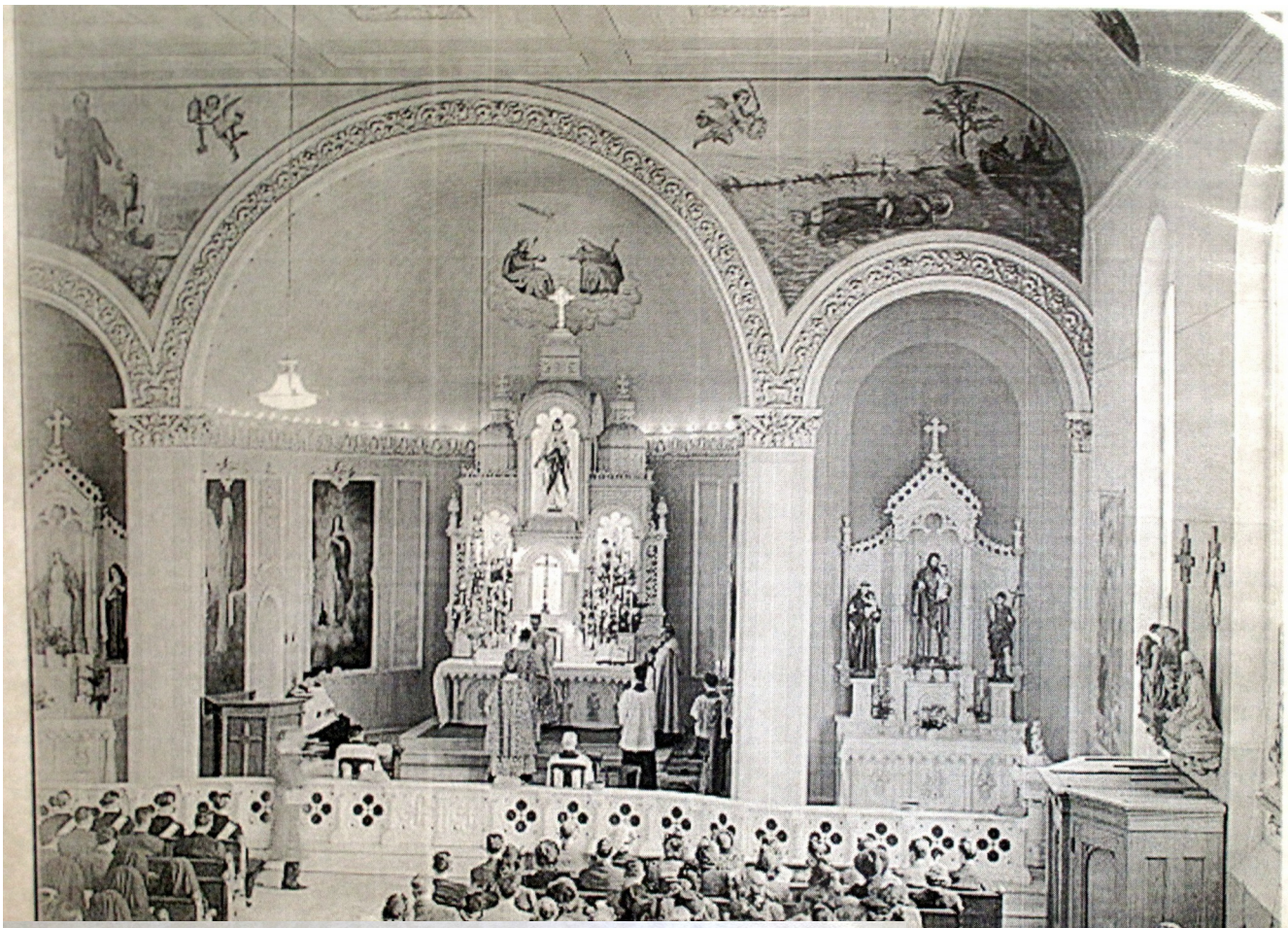
SLEET lashes the shop fronts of the 'Buechel block' that made way for the new church. It's winter in Depression-time America, 1932.

Wesley E. Arnold Collection



Grobbel Family Collection

THE BELLS OF ST CLEMENT'S. The baroque interior of the 1880 church reflected the European roots of Center Line's settlers, complete with murals on the vaulted ceilings, and ornate side altars. But it was the fusing of nationalities that made the community distinctly American. This photograph was taken from the choir loft during the Wedding Mass of Vincent Grobbel & Virginia Hiller on 30 April 1949.



Courtesy M.V. Grobbel

A CENTURY AGO, Fr Kramer (center) gathered his charges for this school portrait. Actually it was circa 1910.

This was the First Communion class of 1909

SMOKE & FIRE

★ ★ ★

TOTAL SECURITY... IT'S UP TO YOU!

The hazards of fire and burglary are real. While you read this, someone is being confronted by these very real threats.

My prime concern at this time is fire **safety,** especially while you and your family are sleeping.

Do you have a **prepared** fire escape plan?

Does **every** member of your family know **exactly** what to do if a fire occurs?

DON'T WAIT . . . PLAN AHEAD. Hold emergency exit drills regulary.

Will you know that there IS a fire? In most home fires during the night, smoke is the killer. If the smoke awakens you, it is usually too heavy and the fire too hot to react normally. Panic sets in and there might be time enough to save yourself . . . but what about your family?

Have you thought about fire detectors? These are early warning systems which detect heat and smoke and may provide the difference between life and death.

A very few vital minutes may result in reducing the total property loss to a few dollars and more importantly may save a LIFE. Smoke detectors are designed to sense smoke **before** the odor would become apparent to someone sleeping.

IT'S UP TO YOU.

For additional information on fire safety equipment and escape plans, contact the CENTER LINE FIRE DEPARTMENT either in person or call

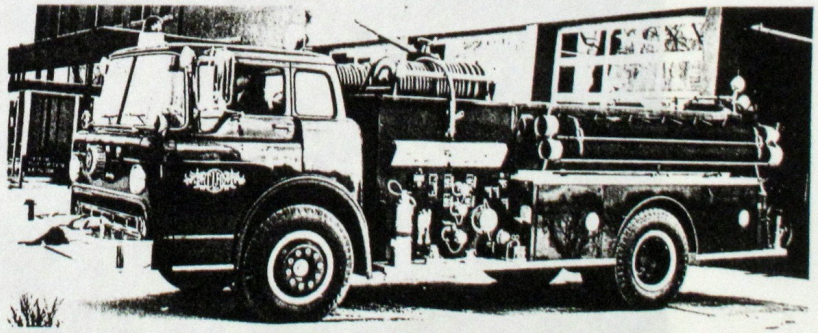
757-1300

For Fire Safety,

Norman R. Smith, Fire Chief

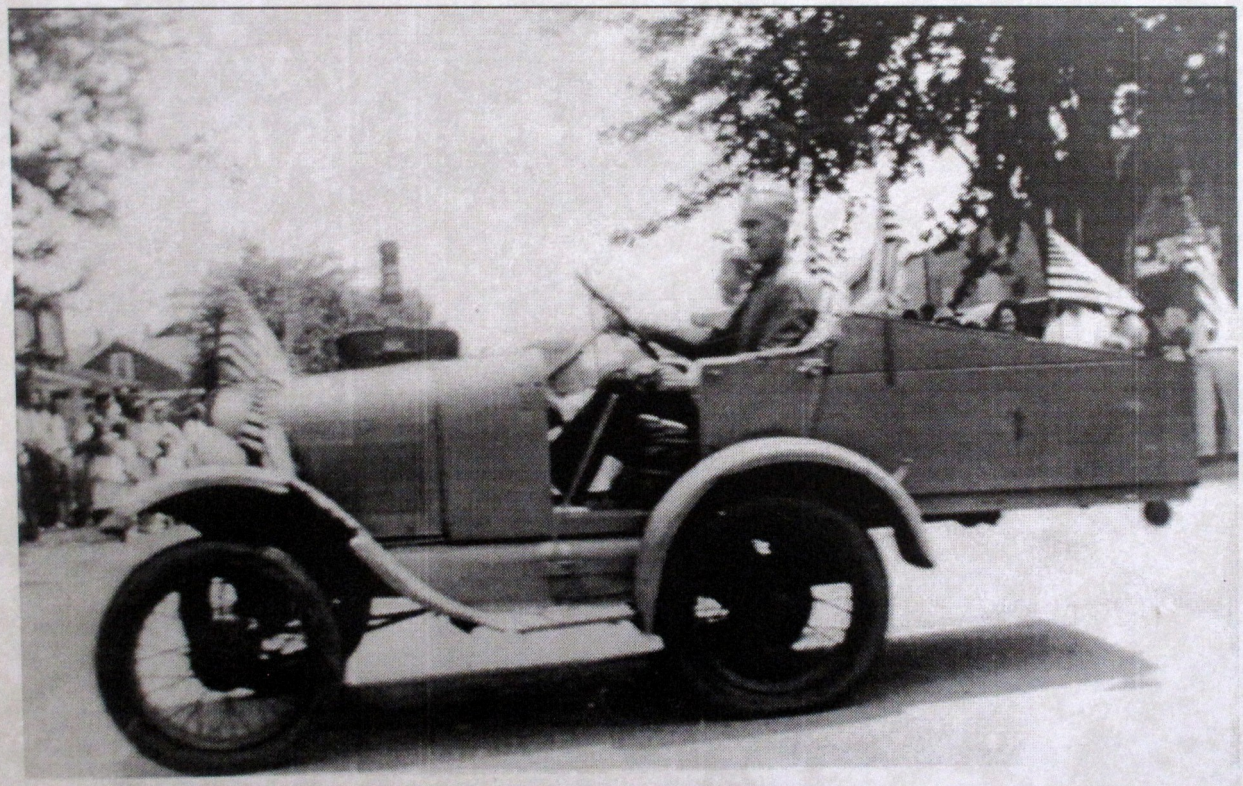
1926

Chief Norman R. Smith
The Chief's favorite line.



1975

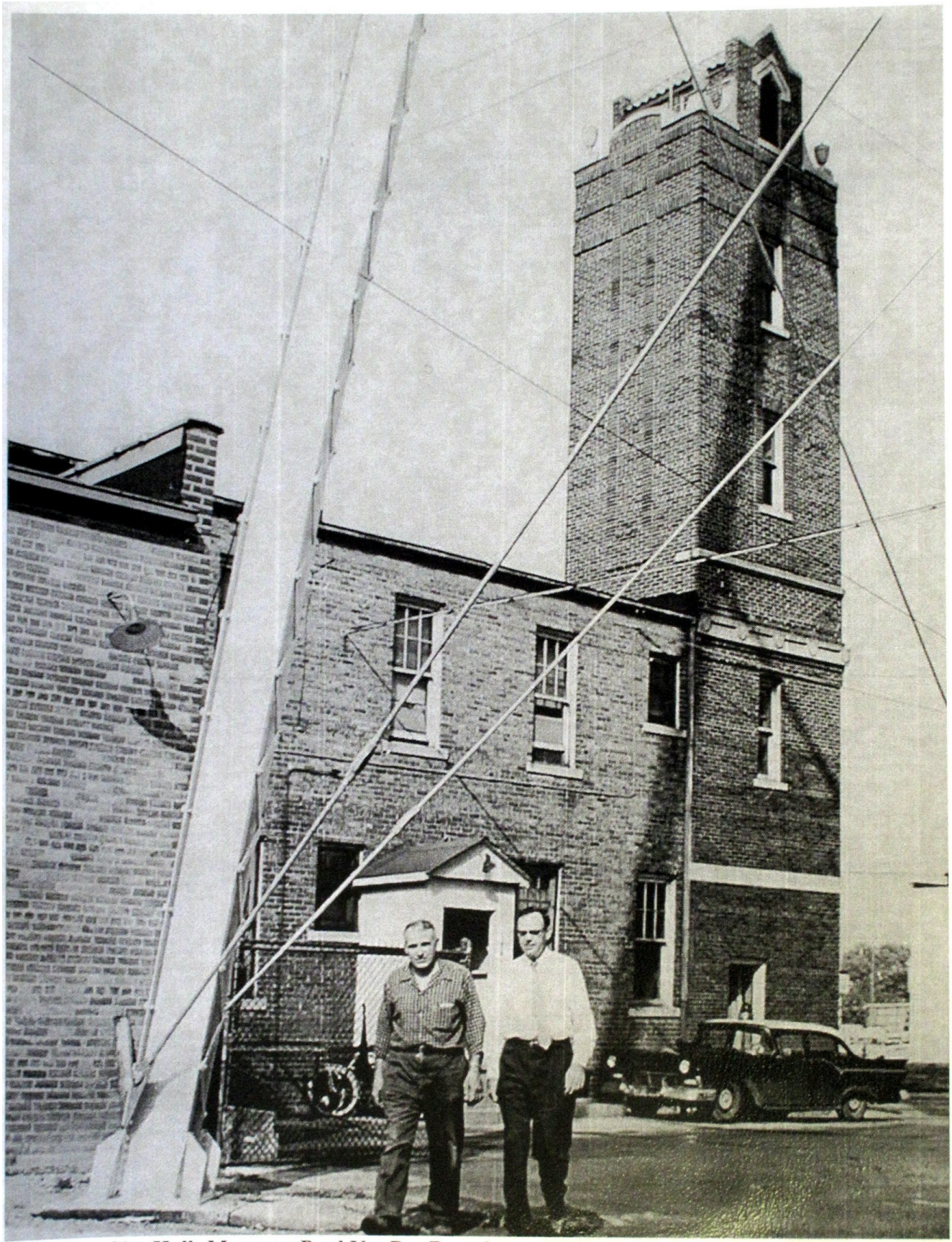
CLEM GROBBEL had built a trick car prototype in 1937, and his son followed him.



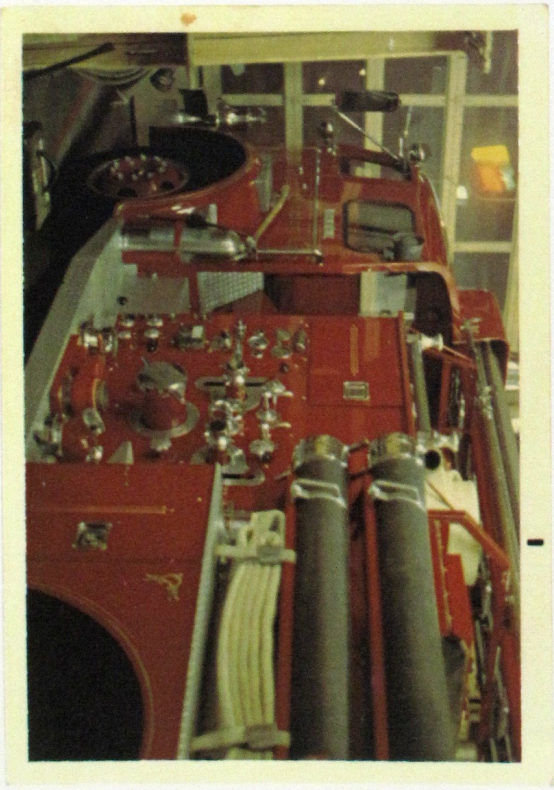
Clem & Vince Groebel--4th of July Parade 7-5-1937

THE BUSCH MIDDLE SCHOOL had a celebrated band too, and Homer Hazelton, far right, was Regimus's rival. Homer wears the same expression that he had more than 30 years later, on pages 36-39. The public school has the spelling of the town's name right.

THE COMMUNITY SPIRIT had always been so strong. Set to march in 1945 the Scout troop (see page 26), in various states of uniform dress and undress, had nonetheless come out in the early morning. Now Center Line faces the challenges of shrinkage and some loss of its old identity, as perhaps never before.



Behind City Hall: Manager Paul VanDenBranden and an employee beneath the water tower.



BUT THE JULY 4 PARADES pass along Van Dyke no more. Such local pleasures are gone. The days of huge single families have also passed from fashion, replaced by the multiple garage and the on-line diversions. Yet many of the old family folk still reside in the Center Line area, or not much farther north. Others are scattered as far apart Florida, California, and Alabama, North Carolina and Wurzburg, Germany.

Most come back occasionally, visiting kin, and they find names and faces that are still familiar. They love to talk about the old days, and reunions in the area are frequent. Wherever their spirits lay, 'Ma' Zott, Clem Grobbel, Homer Hazelton, Regimus Walter, the very Irish Fr Timothy Murray – those who came before – must look down on it all with some bemusement.

Wesley E. Arnold Collection

IT LIES between the Nine Mile and the Eleven Mile marker roads.

Warren PD Aerial Unit

N. SMITH
Sergeant
N. BRUECHERT
Lieutenant
D. R. FRAZIER
Commissioner
of Public Safety
H. LYERLA
Captain
R. REITERMAN
Lieutenant
W. DESMONE
Sergeant
V. GROBBEL
Sergeant
J. HARRIS
Center Line
Michigan
1958
Fire Department
E. HORETSKI
Sergeant
R. CARNEY
Sergeant
R. WIDMAN
C. HENDRICK
P. PANOS
J. RADTKE
STUDIOS, Inc.
N. DESIMONE
J. KOZLOWSKI
H. HELBERG
J. O'LEAR
R. J. HICKSON
A. MEDUVSKY
B. CURTIS
J. M. MAINERO

Wesley Arnold's history book continued

First Methodist started as school house

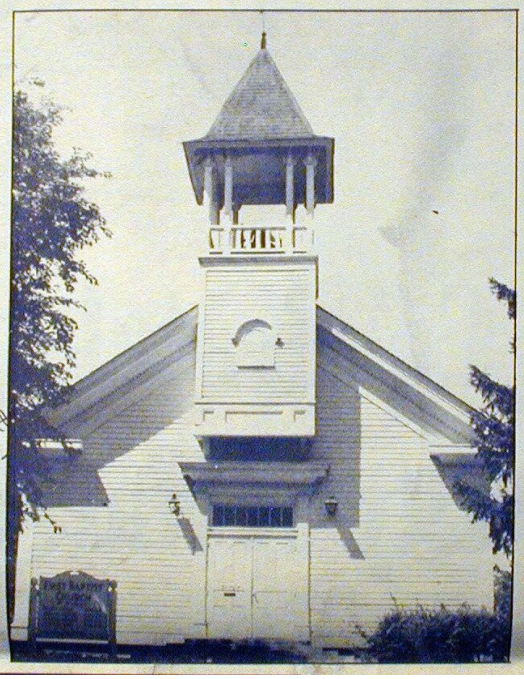
In 1845, a log school house at the corner of Chicago and Ryan roads served as a church for two congregations, Methodist and Baptist, alternating weekly services.

Split log benches placed along the outside walls served as pews made church going uncomfortable. Yet out of the log school house, the Methodist Church of Warren took its origin.

In 1852 the Methodist congregation erected a log chapel just east of the cemetery on Chicago road. The log chapel was supplanted in 1857 by a frame church which was built on the same site.

The church was moved from a ~~second~~ cemetery site to ~~Seven Mile Road~~ ST in Warren in 1884. It enjoyed a steady growth in membership in the following years and was led by a number of reverends.

The present church was designed in 1958 and became the Warren First Methodist Church. It is the oldest structure within the old village area.



The origins of the First United Methodist Church can be traced to 1845, when a log school house at the corner of Chicago and Ryan roads also served Methodist and Baptist congregations as a place of worship.

hy Teaching

r. individual differ- pupils, and require- ool with becoming Since the class 1958 a total of 246 ave gone through the ligh program and 16 rity of the 246 al- e still in college. ear's cadet teachers s students—13 girls boys. The schools co- as receiver institu- hig program with War- Northern, St. Anies, rmann Junior High s are allowed to eight elementary level from en through third t in all intermediate he students are not, e high school grades: observe their assign- or 14 weeks. Most of ts at that time have whether they want a former students ad cadet teachers ex- pressed their feelings about cadet teaching.

Ramona Shiba: "I certainly learned to appreciate my teachers."

Mary Cooney: "It sh wed me that you, as a teache:, must have a complete knowledge of the subject being taught and present a reason or challenge for the students to want to learn."

Pat Makowski: "ow I know what goes on behind the scenes and how much is really expected of a person who is a teacher."

Jeff Beer gave her opinion of the course saying: "I think it's terrifically valuable. It gives the students a chance to see teaching from the inside."

Qualifications for becoming a cadet teacher are that the participant be an active member of the Future Teachers Association (FTA), possess a high scholastic average, and the personal traits necessary for successful teaching.

vention

egan. More than 50 publishers and ad- ructed the students s topics concerned school yearbooks pers.

ADES

rmer dent kes od

Schlefeld has been retary of the Sigma Fraternity at Pe- ollege, Mich. Miss Schlefeld was graduate of Warren

tending Warren, she dent for junior and sophomore e was also secretary th school chapter of al Honor Society and of the student coun- Schlefeld was also a and a member of eam at Warren.

erdine College, she majoring in biology member of the home- mmittee. After grad- ko hopes to become hostess.

$200 by Christmas
Time Sewing at Home
Sewing Machine

hout a sewing ma- time for Christ- You can accomplish You're baby-sitting attempt. Before you ake fun sewing new ideas which you more money. Fast, Simple, Easy threads, yarns, but-

PROPITIOUS Students Attend Writers 'Parlez'

Two members of Creative Writing Club, Joel Javis and Janet Rimmel, and the club's sponsor Miss Alice Cody, attended the sixth annual Writer's Convention at Oakland University on October 14.

The convention was sponsored by the Detroit Women Writers and Division of Continuing Education. For the sixth consecutive year the Conference served as a meeting place where beginning and established writers exchanged ideas.

The day started at 9:30. The 400 to some 500 persons attending were able to make four choices of topics, being presented by 44 authors. These included poetry, short stories, articles, novels, dialogue, and drama workshops. The day ended at 4:30.

A $10 fee for the day's activities paid for registration, tuition and lunch. The Creative Writing Club paid $7 of the fee for the club's members that attended.

New Addition To Appear In Observer

Several suggestions were raised concerning new ideas for features at the recent Press Convention at the University of Detroit attended by Observer staffers. One has been selected for trial use in the "Observer."

The new method will be an attempt to provide more interaction with the paper rather than a few contributors.

The column will resemble the "Zipcode" portion in the

First Student Recalls WHS Infancy

By Beckie Hardie
Feature Editor

Did you know that at one time the 11th grade class at Warren High School had only four students? Discussion with the Shuster Service on the corner of Mound Road and Chicago Road, manufacturing facts about the first years at Warren.

Mr. Shuster began 9th grade in a little room over the Village Upholstery Shop on the corner of Mound and Chicago in 1926. After January 1, he was transferred to Murthum which was used at that time as Warren High. Like many high school boys he was interested in sports in general and took an active part in the school team. In the way of academic understakings along with the required subjects, Mr. Shuster remembers taking Latin and geometry as a part of his high school curriculum.

The strange part about Mr. Shuster's high school years was that in the 11th grade there were only four students in the entire class. The problem, they were distributed to different schools.

Mr. Shuster was placed at Center Line, where he graduated in 1930. When asked what he enjoyed most about school, he paused a moment, then replied with a laugh: "Sports."

After graduation he worked in the Warren Creamery and Chevrolet Gear and Axle before beginning with his present location which he has managed for 32 years.

Mr. Shuster has lived most of his life if not all of it in Warren and has watched the changes since he went to Warren High except that Mound was not paved at the time and most of the surrounding land was farm land. Mr. Shuster has also had the opportunity to observe the changes in the current teenagers and those of 20 years ago. Without hesitation he said, "They're smarter."

RENT A TYPEWRITER
Student Special!
$33 PER MONTH

New Product To Aid Hunters

Conservation and Sportsman's Club (CASC) and the Distributive Education Club of America (DECA) are joining forces in a cooperative effort to gain experience and make money at the same time.

They plan to take a product that has been available only through the mail-order market and sell it to local retailers such as Sears, Federals, Montgomery Wards, J. L. Hudsons and Gells.

The product is called "Buck Shot" and is a scent-type spray containing the essence of 20 bushels of apples. The purpose of this product is to cover human odors and those of cigars and cigarettes, and lure deer to the hunter. Although "Buck Shot" was only available through the mail previously, the efforts of Mr. Ronald Le-Roux, Mr. Don Babcock, a representative of the A. F. Murch company in Paw Paw, Michigan, CASC and DECA have obtained the exclusive right to market the product in Michigan.

Mr. LaRosa and his DECA co-ops do the actual selling by contacting the buying agents of various retail outlets while the conservation boys deliver the product to its destination.

This is an excellent experience for both CASC and DECA as well as rewarding financially. "Buck Shot" will also be available through the school at a reduced rate for those deer hunters that are interested.

Girls to Organize Rifle Team

Eleven girls have gotten together to form a girl's rifle team at Warren High School. The club was suggested by the Conservation Club.

The first part of the year will be used as a training period, but it has been suggested that the girls have some weapons shooting experience before joining the team.

The training course will be conducted by Dave Denoa and Dan Edwards. After the training, the girls will begin the actual shooting to gain experience for the competition against the Conservation Club members at the end of the year.

Rifles used by the team are supplied by the Conservation Club which is provided with equipment by the National Rifle Association (NRA).